

We are informed by the Agent of the Messageries Maritimes Co. that the Company's steamer *Saghalien*, with the next French mail, left Singapore for this port at 6 p.m. to-day, and may be expected on or about the 17th inst.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 6th inst. reports that a Chinese-owned launch, the *Yuanlai*, has been lost on the Ruggedes. As soon as possible news was forwarded to Shanghai of the accident and the tugboat *Fukien* went out to render assistance. She found the wreck and took four fishing boats, laden with kerosene and other cargo, to Ningpo from the wreck, and returned with another launch to take the rest of the cargo, but when the *Fukien* got back the launch had entirely disappeared, and may be adrift.

The E. and A. Co.'s Australian liner *Cathartus* and her genial skipper, Captain Neil Shannon, are still so popular with the travelling public as ever, as is evidenced by the large number of passengers she favourably carries and the general satisfaction expressed by those who arrived here from the Colonies in the good old ship this morning. On leaving Sydney she was commended with passengers, and the fact that everyone of them is struck with the engaging qualities of the vessel and the marked courtesy of the commander and his officers speaks volumes for the efficiency of the E. and A. Co.'s service. A number of the passengers are going on with the *Cathartus* to spend a portion of their holiday in the picturesque hills and dales of Dal Nippon.

A. S. WATSON & COMPANY, LTD.

The following is a full report of the ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the above Company which was held at the Hongkong Dispensary yesterday afternoon. There were present: Mr. John D. Humphreys Chairman, Messrs. J. M. E. Machado, H. Humphreys, J. Grant, W. W. Sutton, E. K. Chan, J. R. Kipp, H. Crawford, E. H. Joseph, S. E. Levy, G. T. Veltch, John A. Jupp, R. Isherwood, S. Kelly, G. Snelling, S. S. Benjamin and A. H. Mancell, Secretary.

The information concerning the meeting having been read.

The Chairman said he would like to know if any gentleman had any question to ask for he would like to embody his answer in the remarks which he had to make.

Mr. Crawford asked that a reply might be given to the rumours which were in circulation as to the financial position of the Company, and Mr. Levy asked whether the new law was required to pay off the liabilities of \$81,055.33 as had been rumoured?

The Chairman in reply said—Gentlemen before asking you to confirm the report and statement of accounts which have been presented to you, I will make a few remarks, in the course of which I will refer to the rumours that have been brought to my notice by the shareholders, and concerning which I was informed I would be asked questions at this meeting. A summary has been in circulation in respect of \$81,055.33 set down as due by our customers, which is said to be unduly large for a business like ours. I asked one of our shareholders, Mr. Crawford, as to this, and he was surprised at the smallness of the amount, which represents really about two months' trading, and ours. It must be remembered, is a credit business. This rumour has been widely circulated by a few persons who are not shareholders in the Company, but who will be from the fact that they have been made all out of the doubtful debts, and the correctness of the statement of accounts is vouched for by myself as your General Manager and by the auditor. Yet it has been rumoured in the Colony that this amount of \$81,055.33 is mostly made up of bad and doubtful debts. All that I will say of the persons circulating these rumours, knowing them to be false, is that I would rather have their bad word than their good words. The total gross amount of our "bills of parcels" account is \$125,261.07, of which, during a period of many years, \$47,172.10 has been written off to the debit of profit and loss absolutely. The full amount, however, as stated, is still shown in our trade ledgers, and our accounts against the people still owing are still kept open for the sake of convenience and to prevent their being supplied with more goods, if after a lapse of two years, they should endeavour to obtain them. The amount which is put in the report is absolutely net. It is not the gross amount, but the net amount, which is the great bulk of it, and is practically within two months from the end of the year. I may say that in point of fact, for the first four months our collections on bills of parcels account are nearly equal to double the amount given as due by customers at the end of the year. I will next refer to the question of the liabilities of the Company. It has been pointed out to me that rumours have been circulating to the effect that the Company is largely in debt, and that the increase of capital of the shareholders about a year ago and confirmed subsequently, and which I then stated to be required for the purpose of increasing the stock of the Company and for the development of new business, that this money has been called up now after the lapse of a year to meet financial difficulties. It is almost unnecessary to go into the question, but I will do so. It stands to reason that your accounts having been audited by a respectable firm, and that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, if such a thing is the case it would be impossible—utterly impossible—for any shareholder to finance the amount of his shares at the Bank. (Applause.) The information would be known to him in detail, and it would be known to him about a fortnight ago. Now, about these liabilities: They are set down here at \$81,055.33. That is in round numbers \$80,000 more than the amount of the year before. At the end of the year, so that your accounts are not being practically decreased by \$15,000. The amount so far from being a large one—and I believe it is much less at the present moment—(hear, hear) is a very small one if you consider the area which this business covers and a portion of the money is on mortgage which existed in my time, (when the business belonged to Mr. J. A. Watson) and the amount of business must know that a large going concern must own money. In London, for instance, accounts not due must be owing, nearly every firm in the city having a weekly day-out, and they expect statements of the two months they have to pay presented to them two or three days before handed. Here, in Hongkong, nobody has ever sent in an account on my day—the 15th of the month—which, I find, has not been paid. (Hear, hear.) The total amount, so far from being a large one, is exceedingly small, and I deduct many of our accounts are paid on fourteen days' credit for the sake of securing cash discount. I think you will consider that the report and statement of accounts are very satisfactory, if not the very best ever submitted to you, when you take into consideration the fall in exchange and the generally depressed state of trade. I propose that the report and statement of accounts be accepted and confirmed by you.

Mr. Levy seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

The Chairman said the dividend warrants would be ready to-day, and that as the Company

had gone on this year its business was considerably in excess of that for the same period of 1891.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

THE "ZAMBESI" CASE.

At the Magistrate's Court before Mr. Hastings, Assistant Police Magistrate, George J. Edwards, master, and J. L. Matlock, chief officer of the steamship *Zambesi*, were charged with unlawfully assaulting and unlawfully imprisoning Tokochi Yonzo on that vessel on the 4th and 5th Feb. Mr. Hastings (Messrs. Wotton and Deacon) appeared for the prosecution. The Japanese Consul was invited to take a seat on the bench. Defendants pleaded not guilty.

Tokochi Yonzo said that he was a barber. About 28th January he and Nakamura Masami, chief steward, went on board the *Zambesi* at Kobe. Four days out, the carpenter discovered them and took them on deck to the chief officer. Witness offered him \$5, which was all he had in the world. The chief officer said it was not enough, and made them work. They were willing to work. He did not take the \$5 from them. Witness did not see the captain at that time. Witness was Sunday, so they did not commence work until next day. Then they helped in washing decks and scrubbing brass and iron work in the engine room. They arrived in Hong Kong on the 4th or 5th of February. When nearing the port, both men were put in the store-room by the chief officer. They were locked in. He gave them no reason for doing so. They were kept four days in the store-room. They did not try to get out. Witness asked the storekeeper to let them out and he replied that they were not to be let out until they were ordered to be let out, and his wages would be stopped if he let them go away. Two days before the steamer was to leave, they were taken out and put into a room next the captain's cabin, with handcuffs on their wrists. Witness was secured by his left hand to the other man's right hand. This was done after they were taken to the room all. The chief officer did it, nobody else being present. It was about 3 p.m. The room was about six feet square with no light at all. Next morning, about seven o'clock, they were feeling almost suffocated, when the chief officer came and opened the door. They asked to be let out, and he took them down to the store-room again. Witness was freed from his iron on the way down, and then again ironed. At six p.m. the same day the chief officer came to the store-room and ironed their feet, witness' left to the other man's right, besides the iron already on his hands. A Japanese lamp lit, Nakamura, was present, and the captain was just outside. They kept together as long as possible, but at last witness missed his companion. Witness got to another steamer and climbed up the cable chain. The crew on this ship turned him out again, probably taking him for a thief. He swam off to another steamer and called out for help, and was taken on board and well treated. Next morning the Water Police came on board and took him to the station.

At this stage the case was remanded until 10 a.m. to-morrow, 11th, in two sittings of \$250 each.

NEWS BY THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

The Eastern and Australian Co.'s steamship *Cathartus*, Capt. Neil Shannon, arrived from Sydney, via ports of call, late last night. We are indebted for the subjoined telegrams to our Australian exchanges.

LONDON, April 9th.

A fracas is reported to have taken place in the National Sporting Club, London, when Charlie Mitchell, the pugilist, assailed Mr. Plesse.

Stages of mice to Greece has become so serious that the Government has undertaken to make inquiries with the view of communicating to the mice the bacillus of typhus.

In a paper on tubercle read before the Medical Society of London, Dr. Usher announced the discovery of pathological changes in the blood, and the alteration of appearance of the red and white corpuscles, denoting degeneration. He advocated a remedy manganate of potash and gold. He intends to interview Dr. Koch and M. Pasteur.

Ravachol, leader of the anarchists in Paris, freely explains to the police the anarchist procedure. He has also communicated a recipe for preparing an explosive three times as powerful as dynamite.

The police have seized a case of dynamite cartridges consigned to Mathien, Ravachol's lieutenant, who has not yet been arrested.

The death of an announced of Robert Bernal, aged Clements, fourth Earl of Leinster, aged 45 years.

Dr. Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of All England, to-day opened at White-chapel, London, a fine art exhibition, which it is intended to open on Sundays.

The masters intend to lock-out about 15,000 Staffordshire pottery hands on the 15th inst.

It is reported that the assassin of Dr. Verolme, the Bulgarian diplomatic agent in Constantinople, has been arrested through the treachery of an accomplice. The assassin is a man named Merdan.

Mr. Henry Matthews, Q.C., Home Secretary, stated in the House of Commons to-day that, if diplomatic remonstrance failed to prevent the anarchists expelled from other countries from coming to Great Britain, the Government would ask for increased powers of exclusion.

The domestic servants employed in Harbord are forming a union. They demand shorter hours of labour and a weekly half-holiday. They marched through the town to-day, carrying the emblems of their calling.

Mr. J. A. Froese, the historian, has been appointed to succeed the late Professor E. A. Freeman as Regius Professor of Modern History at the University of Oxford.

Mr. Alder, Liberal member of the Canadian House of Commons, proposes to impeach Sir A. P. Caron, Minister of Militia, for corruption. Sir A. P. Caron denies the charge.

Mr. A. G. Blair, Attorney-General and Premier of New Brunswick, offers to submit to a select committee the charges of corruption against himself.

A bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island to abolish the Legislative Council and constitute an Assembly of 30 members, half of whom are to be elected by universal suffrage and half by the property franchise.

In Prince Edward Island, a province of the Dominion of Canada, the present Parliament consists of a Legislative Council of 13 members, who are elected by the people, and a House of Assembly of 30 members. The province has four seats in the Dominion Senate and seven in the House of Commons—Ed.

Mr. A. J. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury, stated in the House of Commons last night that a difficulty of the gravest kind lies in the way of every State pension scheme that has been proposed.

Great Britain and France have renewed the *modus vivendi* between the two nations in connection with the Newfoundland fisheries for the present season.

It is reported that a French expedition to the Niger, under the leadership of M. Menard, has been massacred.

Mr. Dalziel has tabled a motion in the House of Commons for the creation of a labour department.

The Durham coal-miners on strike at Castle Eden have wrecked the house of a colliery official by means of an explosive material.

The Union Bank of Australia has issued a City of Sydney municipal 4 per cent. loan of £250,000.

The minimum is fixed at 99, and tenders are to be received up to the 13th inst.

April 7th.

Her Majesty the Queen has given an audience to several French veterans of the Crimean War.

The Admiralty has declined to reconsider its decision respecting the command of the Queensland gunboat *Guyard* being assumed for short periods by the officers of the Australian Auxiliary Squadron.

Sir Richard E. Webster, Q.C., Attorney-General, in reply to a question asked in the House of Commons, stated that Deeming would only be brought to England in the event of his acquittal upon the charge laid against him in Melbourne.

Carl Auguste Sampson, known as the "strong man" having been convicted of the theft of diamonds valued at £1,000, the property of Margaret Bernstein, was to-day sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. The Treasury refused Madame Bernstein's permission to withdraw the charge.

The Board of Trade returns for the past month show that the imports into the United Kingdom have increased £1,400,000, while the exports have decreased to the value of £2,000,000.

Emin Pasha has made a request to the German Government that it should regard the Sudan as a neutral zone in the Equatorial region, so as to avoid the British sphere of influence in Africa, so that he may be allowed to exert authority in the country.

April 8th.

A 4 per cent. loan of £1,000,000 has been floated on the London market by the Government of Ireland. The amount of the loan was subscribed two fold, and the average price was £102 35/8.

Advisers have been received in Paris from Senegal to the effect that the position of Colonel Humbert's Expedition in French Sudan is desperate, the expedition being neither able to retreat nor to advance.

Major-General Bibbidge, a prominent shareholder of the Bank of South Australia, recommends the voluntary liquidation of that bank.

The French Chamber of Deputies has voted 2,250,000 francs for the representation of France at the Chicago Exposition of the Republic of Uruguay.

The Government of the Republic of Uruguay has agreed to that of the United States, upon purchase of the 11th, the island of Libertad, near Monte Video, the capital, which the naval authorities of the United States contemplate converting into a coaling station.

A party of Polish Anarchists have murdered Bishop Ponski. The murderers were pursued, and, in endeavouring to make good their escape, two of the criminals were shot by the police.

Two others of the Anarchists then committed suicide.

Incendiary fires are taking place in Vienna. They are attributed generally to the work of the Anarchist party.

In the Canadian House of Commons the motion affirming the right of the Dominion to make commercial treaties with foreign Powers was submitted and rejected. The Hon. George E. Foster, Minister of Finance in the Government, opposed the proposition on the ground that it was equivalent to an assertion of independence.

Four directors of the Cambrian Railway Company have been summoned to the bar of the House of Commons, and admonished by the Speaker for a breach of privilege in disclosing a servant in the employ of the company for giving evidence before a Parliamentary committee.

Count von Caprivi, the Chancellor of the German Empire, is visiting Cambridge for medical treatment. His visit is regarded as an indication of his resignation of the Chancellorship at an early date in consequence of a dispute with Herr von Boetticher, Secretary of State for the Interior.

Sir James Ferguson, Postmaster-General, made reference in the House of Commons last night to the recent rapid passage of the Messageries steamer *Polynesia* from Australia to Marseilles. He said it was very undesirable to sacrifice regularity to speed.

Mr. May's Government could not undertake to make a change in the existing mail arrangements.

[The *Polynesia* left Sydney on February 26th, and arrived at Marseilles on March 29th, making the run in 32 days, inclusive of all stoppages.—Ed.]

for compulsory purchase, was rejected by a majority of 42 votes.

Major-General Herbert, C.B., the commandant of the Canadian Militia, reports that the organization of the Militia is deplorable, and that the arms are of an obsolete pattern. The personnel of the force, however, is good. The modern gun, and a large portion of the armament provided by England is useless.

The Amer of Afghanistan has warned the Afghan chiefs against the wills of Russia, and declares that the safety of the country lies in its friendship with Great Britain.

The Canadian House of Commons has rejected the motion affirming the right of Canada to make commercial treaties with other Powers.

April 11th.

The matters in dispute between the cotton-spinners and masters have been submitted to arbitration with a view to a settlement of the lockout in that trade.

The German section of the Socialist party in Chicago is arranging for a great Socialist demonstration to take place in that city on May Day, and has issued a circular which is decidedly anarchist in tone.

At a meeting of shareholders of the Bank of South Australia it was resolved to confirm the motion of absorption into the Union Bank of Australia.

LATER.

The meeting of shareholders of the Bank of South Australia was of a stormy character. Messrs. J. W. Arbuthnot, Charles Hill, and Rigby were elected liquidators. A proposal was submitted to elect a committee of shareholders to assist the liquidators, but the motion was rejected.

Mr. Arbuthnot, replying to questions, said that he thought that it would be the duty of the liquidators to form an assets company. The Union Bank reserved the right to impose a call upon shareholders of the Bank of South Australia if necessary.

April 12th.

The French Chamber of Deputies has voted 3,000,000 francs for the purpose of carrying on operations in Dahomey, in West Africa.

The Anarchists have set fire to houses in many parts of Austria. One hundred tenements were burned to the ground at Leinfelden. The Anarchists stole a chest of dynamite from a dynamite store in Lower Austria.

France has agreed to a renewal of the *modus vivendi* with England, in regard to the Newfoundland lobster fisheries.

Tom Mann has been defeated by Mr. Anderson for the secretaryship of the Society of Engineers.

April 13th.

The warrant for the arrest of Deeming applied for by the Public Prosecutor, William in London, has been granted by the Bench.

Disastrous floods are reported from places in the State of Tennessee (U.S.A.), and great loss of life and destruction of property have been thus caused.

Two bombs have been found in a goods train travelling in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. A lighted bomb has been discovered in the School of Architecture, Madrid.

A serious conflict has taken place at Wyoming, in the United States, between a gang of cattle thieves and the police, resulting in the loss of 46 lives.

The police endeavoured to arrest several of the cattle thieves, and in a fight which ensued 28 of the latter were killed. Eighteen police also lost their lives in the encounter.

Her Majesty the Queen, who recently arrived at Hyères, in the South of France, has visited Toulon.

The *Daily News* announces that a general impression of anarchy amongst members of the House of Commons that there will be a dissolution of Parliament about the end of May or the beginning of June, and that the general elections will take place at the end of June.

A look-out of 50,000 operatives engaged in the production of cotton and woollen yarns is considered to be inevitable. It is possible that 7000 weavers will also be affected by the lock-out.

Intelligence has reached Paris to the effect that a French expedition in West Africa has been attacked and repulsed by the natives. The natives captured four French officers and 81 native troops attached to the expedition.

Stringent measures are being adopted all over Europe, and also in America, for the suppression of anarchy and labour disturbances on Mayday.

A dynamite bomb was exploded in Valencia, Spain, no damage was done.

The French Court has decided that Gustave Mathieu, who was believed to be the assassin of Ravachol, the leader of the Paris Anarchists, was innocent of the dynamite explosions in Paris.

From St. Petersburg it is reported that several Russian generals have received orders to join their troops on the German frontier.

La Nación, the principal daily paper of Buenos Ayres, condemns the growing desire of the people of the Argentine Republic to repudiate their European debts and to depend upon the United States for protection.

NEWS BY THE AMERICAN MAIL.

The Occidental & Oriental Co.'s steamship *Galle*, Capt. Pearce, with the American mails of April 16th, arrived in harbour this morning. For the subjoined telegrams we are indebted to our San Francisco exchanges.

LONDON, April 9th.

The British ship *Baroda*, from San Francisco November 22nd for Queenstown has arrived at Crookhaven with the loss of her starboard hull and boats. She was compelled to jettison 100 tons of her cargo in the passage.

The steamer from Peru, laden with cotton, and with 200 passengers on board, before reported, and due at Balboa port of Costa Rica, is en route, and she has foundered and that all on board have been lost.

Sir Arthur Sullivan's illness will probably retard for a long time the new comic opera upon which he has been engaged. Some portion of the work has already been finished, but it is not at all improbable that the work may have to be abandoned entirely. The composer's illness is of a more serious nature than has up to the present been indicated.

The British sailing ship *Dundrennan*, Captain Potter, which left Tacoma October 13th for Liverpool, reached Queenstown to-day after a voyage of 188 days, during the latter part of which the crew suffered frightfully from scurvy.

Five of the crew were in a dying condition when the vessel sailed into Queenstown, and their situation became known to the authorities. The sickness of the five men threw all the work on the remaining ones who were able to be on duty, and the latter were fast running down when the vessel set into port.

A six days' go-as-you-please roller-skating race, which began on Monday last, was finished this evening amid intense excitement. The contest resulted in a victory for Snowden, the American champion.

NOTES FROM CHINESE PAPERS.

The dead and decomposed bodies of the vast number of Chanyang people who fell victims to the brigands who infested that part last winter, now present a most offensive sight. The country round is literally strewn with bones and carcasses. To put these unsightly objects out of view, and to prevent the growth of disease germs, General Yih has given orders to the district officials to have the remains removed and buried.

The General has also promised to defray the expenses attending this benevolent undertaking.

A certain capitalist has lately received sanction from the authorities to prospect and develop the copper mines in the T'ung-shan district, Kuangsi. The mineral wealth of both Kuangtung and Kuangsi is known to be very extensive, but owing to the superstition of the people who believe that the *flaming* of the land would be spoiled, such undertakings have heretofore been impossible. In this case the authorities are on the side of the merchant and have declared that no civil result will attend the unearthing of the buried treasures.

It is rumoured that a certain expectant official of Canton has been backed to death by a number of people who had a grievance against him. The official in question had made himself odious to unfortunate people who came under his rule on more than one occasion, by inordinate "sequencing" and injustice of all kinds. The official was riding in his chair when he encountered a band of excited men, who demanded his blood to satisfy their long cherished grievance. The party dragged him out of his chair and set to work with a vengeance, backing him, right and left until scores of wounds had been inflicted upon the unjust administrator of the law. The district prefect, on hearing this news, immediately dispatched men to the place to arrest the guilty parties, but when the runners reached the place the people resisted them and threatened to serve the district prefect in a similar way. The occurrence has been reported to the high authorities.

The great value of Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites in Wasting Diseases is shown by the accompanying statement from D. C. Freeman, Sydney, Aust.:

"Having been a great sufferer from pulmonary attacks and gradually wasting away for the past two years, it affords me great pleasure to testify that the above medicine has given me great relief, and cheerfully recommend it to all suffering in a similar way to myself. In addition I would say that it is very pleasant to take." Any Chemist can supply it. A. S. Watson & Co. (Limited), agents in Hongkong and China.

(Advt.)

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

9th May, 1892.—At 4 p.m.

STATION. WIND. SEA. CLOUDS. TEMPERATURE. HUMIDITY. RAIN.

Wanchow 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

Shanghai 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

Amoy 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

Swatow 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

Shanghai 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

Amoy 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

Swatow 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

Shanghai 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

Amoy 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

Swatow 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

Shanghai 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

Amoy 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

(From Messrs. Geo. F. Moore & Co.'s Register.)

To-day.

Barometer—1 p.m. 30.00 30.00 30.00 30.00 30.00 30.00

Thermometer—1 p.m. 78.00 78.00 78.00 78.00 78.00 78.00

Thermometer—4 a.m. (Wet bulb) 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00

Thermometer—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00

Thermometer—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00

Thermometer—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00

Thermometer—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00

Thermometer—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00

Thermometer—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00

Thermometer—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00

Thermometer—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00

Thermometer—4 p.m. (Wet bulb) 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00 72.00

